Abstract of the Disclosure:

A protective device for plate-shaped objects, such as lithographic masks, includes at least one holding element with a planar edge and a protective element for protecting at least one surface of a plate-shaped object. A polymer cushion, which is disposed on the planar edge, can be brought into contact with a peripheral region of the surface of the plate-shaped object. The polymer cushion is formed of a polymer whose viscosity and/or adhesiveness is greater when tensile forces are exerted on the protective device orthogonally in relation to the peripheral region of the plate-shaped object than when shearing forces are exerted on the protective device parallel to the peripheral region. A method of using such a protected plate-shaped object is also provided.

MB/nt